

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, 10, 13-14, 17, 20 and 27-31 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 7-9, 15-16 and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 21-26 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 5-6, 10-14, 17, 20 and 27-31 are currently pending, with claims 1, 17 and 20 being independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for an opportunity to have a telephone discussion regarding the rejections under 35 USC § 112. Applicants believe that these rejections have been addressed by submission of the attached claim amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-15, 17-18, 20 and 27-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. As noted above, claim amendments have been submitted to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fernandez et al. (ES 2110 365 AI, abstract). Claims 1, 11, 15, 20 and 27-28 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Horie (JP 5-74464, abstract).

While the Applicants disagree with the examiner's position that a grid anticipates a reticulated substrate with circuitous pores, the attached amendment has been submitted in order to advance prosecution. Independent claims 1, 17 and 20 have been amended to recite a reticulated carbon substrate. Support for the amendment can be found in cancelled claim 4 and throughout the specification.

Thus, the amended claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

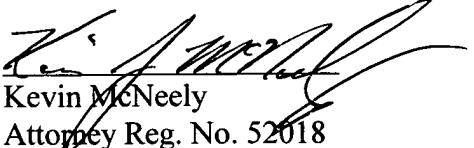
Applicants believe that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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